

Welcome to the May 2005 edition of Iowa Public Television's (IPTV) Ready To Learn (RTL) eNews. The purpose of this free monthly electronic newsletter is to keep families, educators, and child care providers informed of the great resources IPTV and our partners have to offer those who care for children ages birth to eight years of age. RTL is public television's response to a critical national education goal: All children will enter school Ready To Learn.

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_____The Learning Triangle_____

Young children learn by doing—by interacting with people and objects around them. To learn, they need to experience things again and again. RTL uses the learning triangle to teach children skills and concepts by using PBS KIDS programs, books, and activities. Engage children in these theme-related activities in any order and at any time. Point out the connections between the segment they VIEW, the book they READ, and the activity they DO. The repetition and variety of media used reinforces the skills and concepts you teach.

_____How do you use the RTL Learning Triangle? Monthly Contest_____

IPTV's RTL service wants to hear from you! If you have an example of how you have used the RTL Learning Triangle please send an email to Lisa Albers at lisa@iptv.org along with a couple of paragraphs describing your triangle and how it worked for you and the children in your care. All emails received by the end of each month will be included in a drawing for 10 FREE children's books.

_____Careers Theme Learning Triangle_____

When a child's parents are away at work, he or she may have a lot of questions about what they do all day – and why they have to be gone. It can be helpful for children to know not only what their parents do, but also that working for money can be a part of caring for children. With the money they earn, parents can buy the things that

children need. But parents can't always buy everything a child wants. None of us can have everything we want! We all have to learn to make choices about the way we spend our time, our money, and our other resources.

READ IT

1. *What Will I Be?* by Wendy Lewison—Appealing photographs capture adorable children dressed like police officers, firefighters, bakers, and more. The photographs are accompanied by simple, rhyming text, which offers clues to the various occupations pictured and then asks young readers to guess who performs each job. (Infant-Preschool)
2. *A Chair for My Mother* by Vera B. Williams—A child, her waitress mother, and her grandmother save dimes to buy a comfortable armchair after all their furniture is lost in a fire. (Ages 4-8)
3. *Clifford the Firehouse Dog* by Norman Bridwell—Clifford's brother Nero lives at the firehouse, and Clifford decides to visit him. While there, he learns about fire safety and even helps the fire department put out a fire! Learn all about fire safety in this classic book! (Ages 4-8)

VIEW IT

READING RAINBOW – This series airs weekdays at 12:30 p.m. and often features interesting jobs and careers. Here are just a few for the month of May:

- * Monday, May 23: dolphin trainer
- * Tuesday, May 24: crane operator, tug boat captain
- * Wednesday, May 25: inventor, aerospace engineer, biomechanic, high jump coach and athlete, safety auto designer
- * Thursday, May 26: ornithologist (birds)
- * Friday, May 27: potter, geologist
- * Monday, May 30: meteorologist, radar technician

BERENSTAIN BEARS – The Summer Job #124a

- * Tuesday, May 3 at 10:30 a.m.

Brother and Sister are given the opportunity to learn about farming when they spend their summer working with Farmer Ben.

ARTHUR – All Worked Up #905b

- * Friday, May 6 at 7 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Arthur aced five quizzes in a row! But his luck runs out when Mom takes a new job. Did his streak end because Mom's schedule is disrupting his perfect routine?! At first, Arthur and D.W. get all worked up over this change at home, but they learn that they'll always be priority #1.

DO IT

1. Young children love to engage in pretend play of real-life occupations. Help your children create their very own restaurant. List the supplies you would need to run a restaurant, gather props and create menus with pictures of food items. Discuss what you might hear in a restaurant: May I take your order? This is delicious! Thank you! Come again! Take turns role-playing customers, waiters and waitresses (taking orders by writing or drawing), cooks, and cashiers.
2. Talk to children about what it is like when their parents/family members go to work. Ask questions like “How do you feel when your parent/family member goes to work? What things do they do to get ready for their job? How do they take care of you before leaving? What do they say before going? Who takes care of you when they are at work?”
3. Explain that an occupation is the kind of work a person does. Have the children think of some of the jobs a grownup might have. Then act out one of the occupations that were mentioned. Can they guess what job you are acting out? Give the child a chance to act out different jobs.
4. Children may enjoy making signs for the different jobs they have talked about. On sheets of paper write the name of a job. Can the children think of something they could draw to represent that job? You may also want to look through magazines and cut out pictures to paste on the signs.
5. Ask the children if they want to mail a picture or letter to their parents at work. Give the children paper and markers to use for their drawings and let them tell you the words they would like to say. When the drawings and letters are finished, address the envelopes to the parent's work place and have the children place them in envelopes and seal them.

_____Diversity Theme Learning Triangle_____

People come in many different shapes, sizes, and colors. These differences can often confuse children. Talking to them about how we are different and alike helps children work through feelings and develop an understanding and appreciation for differences. Children are most concerned about how their characteristics make them better or worse than others. Messages about accepting people can help children accept who they are and pave the way toward becoming adults who enjoy the variety that differences among people bring.

READ IT

1. *Margaret and Margarita* by Lynn Reiser—Margaret, who speaks only English, and Margarita, who speaks only Spanish, meet in the park and have fun playing together even though they have different languages. (This is a bilingual book in English and Spanish.) (Ages 4-8)
2. *Mama Zooms* by Jane Cowen-Fletcher—A boy's wonderful mama takes him zooming everywhere with her, because her wheelchair is a zooming machine. (This book is also available in Spanish.) (Ages 4-8)
3. *Bread, Bread, Bread* by Ann Morris—Celebrates the many different kinds of bread and how it may be enjoyed all over the world. (Infant-Preschool)

VIEW IT

MISTER ROGERS' NEIGHBORHOOD – #1685 (part of the Fast & Slow theme)

* Friday, May 20 at 2:30 p.m.

In this episode, Mister Rogers exercises with a friend in a wheelchair.

DRAGON TALES – A Small Victory #312b

* Tuesday, May 31 at 7:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Quetzal gives the gang the task of collecting rare exotic plants to add to the School in the Sky garden. When Max is teamed with Lorca, he is worried that they can't handle very much – Max is small and Lorca is in a wheelchair. After Max tells Lorca about his frustration, Lorca shows him ways to overcome his physical limitations and to “think of what you can do, not what you can't.” In the end, Max realizes that with some brains and the right tools, he can do anything!

SESAME STREET – Every episode has a “Spanish Word of the Day.” Many episodes also feature a segment called “Global Grover,” that introduces different cultures to children.

* Every Monday-Friday at 9:00 a.m.

DO IT

1. Children learn from examples they see from the grownups in their lives. Therefore, you can help children respect others by the way you greet people, talk with them, and talk about them afterwards.
2. Work together with your child to make a book about your family, called "How We're Alike and How We're Different." By writing or drawing pictures or taking photographs, you and your child could make a book of everyone's favorite food, color, time of day, what each one likes to do alone and what each one likes to do when the family is together. Talk with your child about how the family is the same and how they are different.
3. Talk with your child about how it feels to meet someone new. Reassure your child that we all can feel a little shy, scared, confused, or even annoyed when people look or behave differently from their own familiar ways.
4. Invite your child to help in preparing homemade vegetable soup. As you add tomatoes, carrots, onions, roast or stew meat, corn, celery, salt, and pepper into the soup pot, discuss how these colorful and diverse flavors work together to create delicious soup. Then encourage your child to think about how this mixture of ingredients compares to the mixture of cultures, making up communities around the world. What if there were only carrots or onions in the soup? What if every person was exactly the same? How would our world be different? Would it be a better or worse place to live? Explain that it's the diverse, or different, mixture of people (society) and traditions (culture) that "give flavor" to our world in such an interesting and wonderful way.
5. Helping children recognize that people can be different in many ways is a lesson that can never start too early. Be sure your classroom or home has plenty of multicultural books, toys and educational materials that show a variety of race, age, and physical appearance. It's also important for children to experience diversity throughout the day in natural situations. The richness of cultures can be shared through folktales, song, poems, festivals, visits to museums, and different foods.
6. Listen to music from different cultures. The public library is a good source to check out audio tapes and CDs.

_____Spring 2005 IPTV Kids Schedule_____

This schedule is provided to assist children, their families, and child care providers as they plan their TV viewing.

Monday—Friday

6:30 a.m. Postcards from Buster
7:00 a.m. Arthur
7:30 a.m. Clifford the Big Red Dog
8:00 a.m. Dragon Tales
8:30 a.m. Caillou
9:00 a.m. Sesame Street
10:00 a.m. Barney & Friends
10:30 a.m. The Berenstain Bears
11:00 a.m. The Big Comfy Couch
11:30 a.m. Boohbah
Noon Between the Lions
12:30 p.m. Reading Rainbow
1:00 p.m. Classroom TV
2:30 p.m. Mister Rogers' Neighborhood
3:00 p.m. Cyberchase
3:30 p.m. Maya & Miguel
4:00 p.m. Clifford the Big Red Dog
4:30 p.m. Arthur
5:00 p.m. Dragon Tales

Sunday

8:00 a.m. Bob the Builder
8:30 a.m. Angelina Ballerina
9:00 a.m. Dragon Tales
9:30 a.m. Thomas & Friends

_____NEW IPTV Kids Schedule for Summer 2005 to begin on June 1_____

Monday—Friday

6:30 a.m. Postcards from Buster
7:00 a.m. Arthur
7:30 a.m. Clifford the Big Red Dog
8:00 a.m. Dragon Tales
8:30 a.m. Caillou
9:00 a.m. Sesame Street
10:00 a.m. Barney & Friends
10:30 a.m. The Berenstain Bears
11:00 a.m. The Big Comfy Couch
11:30 a.m. Cyberchase
Noon Between the Lions
12:30 p.m. Reading Rainbow
1:00 p.m. Redwall
1:30 p.m. Zaboomafoo
2:00 p.m. Thomas and Friends/Bob the Builder
2:30 p.m. Sesame Street
3:30 p.m. Dragon Tales
4:00 p.m. Clifford the Big Red Dog
4:30 p.m. Arthur
5:00 p.m. Clifford the Big Red Dog

Sunday

8:00 a.m. Auto B. Good
8:30 a.m. Angelina Ballerina

9:00 a.m. Bob the Builder
9:30 a.m. Thomas and Friends

_____Program Schedule, Episode Descriptions and Record Rights for PBS Kids Programs_____

Finding Program Schedule and Episode Descriptions:

- * Go to Web site: www.iptv.org
- * Click on Educational Resources button at the top center of the page.
- * Click on the Today link under the Educational TV Schedule heading on the left side of the page toward the middle.
- * Click on the program you are interested in to find a description for today's episode of the program.
- * To find future episode descriptions, click on a date in the left column to find the description of the episode that will be shown on that specific date. Reading them will help you identify episodes that correspond to your curricular themes. The listed dates are the next 28 air dates of the program you've selected. Upcoming TV schedules on www.iptv.org are updated by the 15th of each month for the following month.

Record only, one year tape and erase. No duplication allowed.

What does that mean?

Educators may record a program from the broadcast. The recording may then be used in an educational setting and retained as long as that program airs on IPTV. No copies may be made from the original recording.

If available, educators also may borrow a recording from a lending library, such as the media centers in Iowa's Area Education Agencies.

_____FREE Training Opportunities on the ICN_____

KinderNature

Register to participate in one of the FREE ICN sessions about KinderNature, a new tool providing environmental education activities to early childhood educators and naturalists. KinderNature is offered through a Web site, CD, and ICN training sessions offering hands-on fun nature activities for groups, parent/child programs, preschools, and day camps.

The ICN session date is Thursday, May 12, with two session offering times to choose from: 3:45-4:45 p.m. OR 5:30-6:30 p.m.

To register or find out more information about the FREE ICN training opportunities visit the following Internet address:

www3.iptv.org/iowa_database/event-detail.cfm?ID=5527

1. Read the event details - description, time and audience for the session. If interested in participating in the session, scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the "Register here" link. Follow the directions. Registration will be closed one-week prior the session date.
2. Click on your Community College REGION #.
3. Click on your School (where you are located, not ICN location).
- AS A CHILD CARE PROVIDER/PARENT YOU WOULD SELECT THE "_Child Care Provider/Parent REGION ??" selection for the school.
4. Fill out ALL the information requested (check twice to make sure all information is accurate) and click the Register now button.
- AS A CHILD CARE PROVIDER/PARENT YOU WOULD INPUT THE NECESSARY INFORMATION WHICH WILL INCLUDE YOUR MAILING ADDRESS, AS SOME (but not all) SESSIONS HAVE MATERIALS THAT ARE MAILED OUT TO PARTICIPANTS.
- YOU CAN SELECT THE ICN CLASSROOM WHERE YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND. ON THE FORM THERE IS A LINK TO A CLICKABLE MAP OF THE ICN CLASSROOM LOCATIONS, IF YOU ARE NOT SURE WHERE THEY ARE LOCATED. IF YOU WOULD LIKE A RECOMMENDATION AS TO ONE THAT

WOULD BE CONVENIENT FOR YOU AND CONVENIENT FOR SCHEDULING, GIVE LISA ALBERS A CALL AT (515) 242-6479 AND SHE CAN DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITIES WITH YOU.

5. Your registration has been sent. Print the following sheet.

6. Click on the K-12 Calendar link to schedule another session. Repeat the process.

7. You will receive an email in a couple of days with the status of your request to participate.

_____May Focus on Media Literacy_____

Tips to Tame the Tube

TALK

TALK to children about that they are seeing on TV

*Ask questions that encourage critical viewing. "Do you think this would happen in real life? How would you handle this situation?"

* If possible, watch programs with them and provide appropriate information to put the program in perspective. Don't assume they understand what they see.

* Television viewing is part of your children's experience. Ask them about programs they have seen, how it made them feel, how it made them think differently about themselves, their lives, their world.

_____Series Spotlight_____

Beginning June 1, 2005, SESAME STREET will air twice daily on IPTV. Once at 9:00 a.m. and a repeat of the previous day at 2:30 p.m.

SESAME STREET, the recipient of 97 Emmys, engaged young viewers with its unique blend of excitement, humor and compassion. All children are born ready to learn. The SESAME STREET series engages young children anxious to acquire the tools and skills needed to thrive in a constantly changing, continually challenging environment.

What the Program Teaches

Since the beginning, every segment, every song, and every story on SESAME STREET has been designed to educate young viewers about a specific lesson—and every year the curriculum changes to address the current educational needs of children.

SESAME STREET encourages children to:

- Think things through by observing, asking questions, problem solving, and seeing others' perspectives.
- Take beginning steps toward reading, writing, mathematics, and science.
- Explore their environment.
- Recognize their own abilities as artists.
- Learn about feelings and how to cope with emotions.
- Appreciate cultural diversity by modeling people who differ in appearance, action, or point of view playing working together, making friends and resolving conflicts.
- Learn about the body and how to keep it healthy and safe.

SESAME STREET'S 36th Season

In the 36th season of SESAME STREET, Elmo, Big Bird, and the rest of the SESAME STREET gang are joined by celebrity guests and a colorful cast of vegetable Muppets to share lessons highlighting the importance of healthy eating, active play, and getting plenty of rest.

SESAME STREET'S newest curriculum is part of a broader Sesame Workshop initiative, "Healthy Habits for Live," created in response to the growing crisis of childhood obesity. By engaging children with positive messages about exercise and good nutrition during the formative preschool years, the initiative helps lay the foundation for a lifetime of healthy habits.

_____May Feature_____

Summer Reading FUN for Young Children

Oh those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer. We look forward to them all year long. The daylight stays around longer; things seem more relaxed—more fun! This month IPTV offers the following list of summer reading ideas designed to be shared with parents to give them creative and fun ways to incorporate more reading and reading activities into the families' routine this summer! These ideas are easy, inexpensive and are sure to create lasting memories, as well as helping children develop skills that will last a lifetime.

- Read to your child. Schedule time in your routine everyday to snuggle up close and read together. Bedtime is a time a lot of families choose, but anytime that works in your schedule is fine. The main thing is that you take the time to read with your child on a daily basis.
- Create extra special places in your home for reading. All you will need is something to read, a quiet spot away from the TV, good lighting, a few pillows or blankets and maybe some stuffed friends.
- Be a role model for your child. Let them see you reading for pleasure as well as for information. Talk with them about why you value reading. Consider establishing a daily 15- to 30-minute time when everyone in the family reads together silently. Seeing you read will inspire your children to read.
- Read aloud to your child everywhere you go. Read signs and labels in the grocery store, read road signs and billboards when you are in the car, and read recipes or instructions as you prepare meals. These activities will help your child understand that reading is a skill that they will use everyday of their life.
- Take a trip to the local public library. Children love outings and many libraries sponsor fun, child-friendly, summer reading programs. In addition to borrowing as many books as they choose, children can participate in story hours, puppet shows and other fun family activities.
- Have plenty of reading material around. Tempt your child to read by having a large supply of appealing books and magazines at their reading level. Put reading materials in cars, bathrooms, bedrooms, family rooms, and even by the TV. Pack a bag of books and take it with you when you go to the pool, doctor's office, or park.
- Praise your child when you see them working on their literacy skills. Have you seen them looking through picture books on their own or "reading" a story to you by describing the pictures? Your reaction to these activities will have a great impact on how hard they will try to become good readers in the future.
- Limit your children's TV viewing, but don't cut it out all together. Children respond in an emotional way to TV and genuinely enjoy watching it. Public television taps into the positive emotions to inspire children to read. Young children are sure to enjoy learning letters with their monster friends on SESAME STREET, making letter sounds and words with BETWEEN THE LIONS, and finding out about recommended books from kids themselves at the end of every READING RAINBOW program. Not home when these programs are on? Tape the program and let your child watch it over and over again to master the skills presented in each program.
- To promote creativity and to build muscle control, grab a pail of water and a paint brush. On a warm day, take your children outside to the driveway or sidewalk and encourage them to write anything they wish. Talk about what they have written.
- Improve listening skills and imagination. Read a story aloud to your child and stop before the ending. Ask the child how the story will turn out. Then finish the story and discuss the ending with the child. Did it turn out the way they thought it would?

The tips in this article were compiled and edited from the following online resources:

Summer Home Learning Recipes for Parents and Children: <http://www.ed.gov/pubs/Recipes/index.html>

10 Ways to Keep Your Child reading This Summer: <http://www.partnershipforlearning.org/article.asp?ArticleID=93>

10 Tips for Summer Reading Fun: <http://www.partnershipforlearning.org/article.asp?ArticleID=134>

Keeping Kids Reading in the Summer: <http://www.partnershipforlearning.org/article.asp?ArticleID=125>

_____Tip of the Month_____

A New Booklet and Web site from Zero to Three

“Getting Ready for School Begins at Birth: How to help your child learn in the early years” explains how – through everyday interactions with the people they love and trust – young children develop skills in four areas essential for success in school: language and literacy skills, thinking skills, self-control, and self-confidence. This booklet, which has been endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics, is designed to help parents understand what they can do to get their baby or toddler off to the best start by using everyday interactions to teach the basic skills that she will need to cooperate, get along with others, and be an enthusiastic learner.

For more information about Getting Ready for School Begins at Birth, or to download a booklet in a pdf format, see: www.zerotothree.org/schoolreadiness/

_____Resources for May_____

Reading Rockets Current Newsletter—This monthly newsletter provides information for families and educators about teaching kids to read and helping those who struggle.

www.readingrockets.org/subscribe/newsletter.php (This Web site is updated on the first of every month.)

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS:

* "Becoming Bilingual" – A New PBS Show from Reading Rockets (IOWANS CAN WATCH THIS PROGRAM ONLINE AT www.readingrockets.org/tv/bilingual.php)

* A New Partnership – Reading Rockets and National Association of School Psychologists (NASP)

* This Month's Recommended Books: Lots of Laughs

* American Federation of Teachers to Sponsor ColorinColorado.org

* An Exclusive New Video Interview With Pam Muñoz Ryan

NEWS ABOUT READING

* New Rules for No Child Left Behind Law

* Draft IDEA 2004 Regulations to be Published Next Month

* Teaching Reading to Adolescents

IDEAS FOR PARENTS

* The Best Advocate for a Child...

* StudyDog – 46 Free Animated Reading Lessons

* Purple Wristbands – Reading Fashion for Young Hipsters

* "Talk to Your Baby" – In Chinese, Arabic, Urdu, and More

IDEAS FOR EDUCATORS

* Young Children's Oral Language Development

* A Year of Change: Leadership in the Principal's Office

* What Science Offers Teachers of Reading

* Sharing the Spirit of Hans Christian Andersen

Mister Rogers' Neighborhood—Spring 2005 Edition (March-April) of the Neighborhood News Newsletter—This quarterly newsletter helps families and care providers plan their viewing of MISTER ROGERS' NEIGHBORHOOD by providing schedules, descriptions, activities, book suggestions, and timely articles of interest to adults who work with children.

www.fci.org/newsletter/

Themes for May:

May 2-6 – Families (Families Come in Different Shapes and Sizes)

May 9-13 – Then & Now (Exploring Feelings About Living and Dying)

May 16-20 – Fast & Slow (Some Times are for Hurrying Up—Some Times are for Slowing Down)

May 23-27 – Kindness (Being Kind to Ourselves and Others)

May 30-June 3 – Little & Big (Fascination with Big Things, Valuing Little Things)

Mister Rogers' Neighborhood *Mad Feelings* Newsletter—A monthly newsletter dealing with anger management and challenging behaviors in young children, including articles, activities and tips.

www.fci.org/madfeelings/default.asp

PBS Parents Electronic Newsletter

Each week this electronic newsletter targets providers, caregivers, and parents bringing activities from favorite children's programs, events in your local community, and headlines from the PBS Parents Web site. To receive this FREE electronic newsletter, subscribe at the following Web site:
www.pbs.org/parents/ (The link is towards the bottom of the page.)

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